Introduction

When reminded of death, individuals cling to their beliefs to cope with the terror associated with their inevitable mortality. Intrinsic religiousness (i.e., firmly internalizing one’s beliefs) buffers against existential terror and reduces the need for defense as these persons are able to rely on their internalized, religious beliefs as a shield, along with their overall relationship with their divine figurehead (Vail et al., 2012).

Other work suggests that a relationship with God can be described as an attachment bond, specifically that an anxious attachment to God is strongly correlated with an extrinsic religious orientation (Rowatt & Kirkpatrick, 2002). The present study examined the association between intrinsic religiosity and attachment to God. Specifically, we hypothesized that low intrinsic individuals would experience a more avoidant attachment to God following MS because these individuals do not internalize their religiosity, their beliefs become a source of contention instead of an anchor. Intrinsic religious individuals were removed from all analyses.

Results

• These results suggest that low intrinsic people are unable to rely on their religious beliefs following MS. Specifically, because these individuals do not internalize their religiosity, their beliefs become a source of contention instead of an anxiety buffer following MS.

• Future work should replicate this work with different religions and gods to insure generalizability, as well as increase the overall sample size due to the marginal effects observed here.